MASTER PLAN BY E.E.C.

2348. SHRI KARISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Europeon Economic Community have recently formulated a master plan forthe promotion of Indian exports to Europe with the Indian Government;

(b) if so, by when the master plan is likely to be implemented; and

(c) to what extent the medium and small enterprises in India are likely to be benefited ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

EXPORT OF PSEUDO BASMATI RICE

2349. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have cautioned the concerned authorities for pseudo-basmati varieties from export to protect the quality of Indian basmati and its adverse defects in the export market; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMERS AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) Over the years, Indian basmati rice has acquired a distinctive image for itself in the international market. Government has been advising the trade and governmental agencies that this image should be cultivated and be not allowed to be adversely affected through sale or propagation of any non-basmati varieties as basmati.

INDIA RECEIVING POWER FROM BHUTAN

2350. SHRIMATI ILA PANDA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India is receiving power from Bhutan under a bilateral trade agreement and if so, at what price ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that because of the subsidised cost of power, Bhutan has set up power intensive industries, such as ferro alloys with a view to dumping such products into India, thus affecting Indian business ; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to stop dumping by Bhutan, and whether measures like anti-dumping duty will be introduced to offer a level playing field to Indian investors who have invested heavily in such industries ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Power is supplied by the Royal Government of Bhutan at 37 paise Kwh. under the agreement regarding the Chukha Hydro-Electric Project in Bhutan.

(b) A joint venture company namely M/s. Bhutan Ferro Alloys Ltd., was established in 1990 for the manufacture of Ferro Alloys (Ferro Silicon) and their bye products such as micro silicon and slag. As per the prospectus, the Company has three partners namely the Royal Government of Bhutan, M/s. Tashi Commercial Corp. of Bhutan and M/s. Marubeni Corp. of Japan. The Company has signed a distributorship agreement with Marubeni Corpn. for the export of 50% of silicon and micro silica production to Japan and other countries for a period of 12 years. The Government of Bhutan has agreed to provide power at the same rate at which it is sold to the Government of India for a period of 12 years.